

60137-245/185-3067
Serial No. 10/781,411, filed 2/18/04**REMARKS**

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. Claims 3, 6, 9 and 10 have been amended. New claims 15-17 are presented. Accordingly, claims 1-10 and 15-17 are pending.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nennecker* (5498151) in view of *Takizawa* (5770245). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as there is absolutely no teaching, suggestion, or motivation to modify *Nennecker* (5498151) in view of *Takizawa* (5770245). The Examiner admits that *Nennecker* fails to teach an air injection system in communication with the mold valve chamber and the valve piston is movable to block the air inlet through the mold valve chamber. *Nennecker* makes not reference to an air introduction system whatsoever.

The Examiner suggests that it would be obvious to modify *Nennecker* with an air injection system as taught by *Takizawa* because *it allows for resin venting*. However, *Takizawa* discloses that:

The resin vent 16 may also be connected to an inert gas feeding machine 50 to fill the clearance 18 with the inert gas. The inert gas feeding machine 50 may be a gas cylinder with a valve. *The inert gas filled in the clearance serves to avoid oxidation of the resin therein.*

[col. 3, lines 56-59 emphasis added]

In the illustrated embodiment, the pressure reducing device 40 and the inert gas feeding machine 50 are communicated with the upper and lower resin vents 16, respectively. However, they may be connected to the resin trap 19. Alternatively, either one of the pressure reducing device 40 and the inert gas feeding machine 50 may be connected to the resin vent 16 to assure forced elimination of the gas out of the clearance or to prevent possible oxidation. In order to achieve both the suction under reduced pressure and prevention of oxidation, the gas in the clearance may be sucked out during the backward movement of the injection plunger 10 while the feeding of the inert gas is stopped. The prevention of carbonization may be achieved by means of feeding the inert gas during the forward movement of the injection plunger while the suction under reduced pressure is stopped.

[col. 4, lines 7-22]

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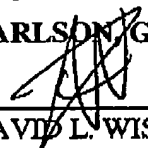
Neither reference alone or in combination discloses, suggests or teaches the use of an air injection system in communication with a mold valve chamber, the mold valve chamber in communication with an injection chamber. Simply, there is no motivation to combine *Nennecker* in view of *Takizawa* and absolutely no suggestion as to specifically where said air injection system is to be connected. Furthermore, the Examiner's stated motivation for the proposed combination is not supported by either reference. The inert gas feeding mechanism of *Takizawa* operates to avoid oxygenation of the resin – not for resin venting as suggested by the Examiner. In fact, *Takizawa* injects the inert gas into the vent 16 in a manner in direct opposition to the Examiner's suggested motivation. The only motivation to make the combination as proposed is by following the knowledge disclosed within the present invention. This is impermissible usage of Hindsight in an attempt to recreate Applicants device. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are properly allowable.

New claims 15-17 recite further features of the present invention which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are thus properly allowable.

If any additional fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a teleconference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,
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